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November 3, 2003

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The Honorable Norman Mineta  
Secretary of Transportation  
Department of Transportation  
400 Seventh St. SW. Room 10200  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Mineta:

I strongly support AirTran Airway's application to service Reagan/Washington National (DCA) using two slots recently surrendered by Corporate Airlines. AirTran intends to establish direct service from Akron Canton Airport (CAK) to Reagan. Indirect service to Washington from Akron Canton is expensive and time consuming.

Because access to DCA is limited by federal regulation, few Ohio communities have access to the most desirable of the Washington-area airports. AirTran has demonstrated that it can significantly reduced fares and provide exceptional customer service. Recently, AirTran established service to New York City's LaGuardia Airport. Over 600 passengers fly daily to or from New York at a very low cost. The competitive price has helped hold fares down in the Northeast Ohio travel market.

Akron Canton has become the nation's third fastest growing airport. Serving 1.4 million people in the Akron Canton area, the facility's low fares have drawn over 1 million passengers this year, some from as far way as Columbus. We believe that the airport's service not only will maintain and promote Northeast Ohio as a national commercial center, but also boost leisure travel.

I am confident that what AirTran did for travel to New York, it can do for air service to Washington. Please give this matter favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Bob Taft  
Governor